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### Well-known author to lecture at UM

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# The University of Montana

## NEWS RELEASE

University Communications  
Missoula, MT 59812  
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Sept. 25, 1992

### WELL-KNOWN AUTHOR TO LECTURE AT UM

#### MISSOULA --

Author Francine du Plessix Gray will discuss "Why and How We Write" when she gives the Freeman Memorial Lecture Monday, Oct. 19, at The University of Montana.

The free, public lecture will begin at 8 p.m. in the Urey Lecture Hall.

Gray was born in the French Embassy in Warsaw, Poland, where her father was a member of the diplomatic corps. After emigrating to the United States during World War II, she earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy at Barnard College, where she won the Putnam Creative Writing Award.

She reported for United Press International and Elle magazine and was the book editor for Art in America magazine. Her fiction and political essays have appeared in publications such as The New Yorker, Rolling Stone, Esquire, The New York Review of Books, The New Republic and The New York Times Magazine.

In 1983, she won the National Magazine Award for Best Reporting for her Vanity Fair articles on Klaus Barbie and the French Resistance.

Her first book, "Divine Disobedience: Profiles in Catholic Radicalism," was published in 1970 and won the National Catholic Book Award. Her most recent book is "Soviet Women: Walking the Tightrope," a study of the attitudes of women in the former Soviet Union during the Mikhail Gorbachev era.

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Her other books include the non-fiction work "Hawaii: The Sugar-Coated Fortress"; a collection of essays on "Adam & Eve and the City"; and three novels, "Lovers and Tyrants," "World Without End" and "October Blood." She's working on a biography of the 19th century French writer Louise Colet.

Gray has taught at the College of the City of New York, Yale University, Columbia University and Princeton University. She holds honorary doctorates from Oberlin College and several other universities and has been decorated by the French government as a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. She received a 1991-92 Guggenheim Fellowship and lives in Connecticut with her husband, painter Cleve Gray, and their two sons.

UM's annual Freeman Memorial Lecture is named for Edmund and Mary Freeman. Edmund Freeman taught English at the University from 1919 to 1962 and was active in UM affairs until his death in 1976.

The annual lectures are supported by the Edmund and Mary Freeman Memorial Fund. Created to bring a variety of cultural events to Missoula, the fund is supported by public donations. Donations can be sent to Professor Chris Field, College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812.

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KR/csw  
Specialized western Montana  
Gray.rl